

October 11, 2019

EDA Investment Committee
U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration
Denver Regional Office
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 431
Denver, CO 80204

RE: City of Indianola Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance Application

Dear EDA Investment Committee:

I would like to express the Greater Des Moines Partnership's support of the City of Indianola's application to EDA's Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance Program. The Partnership represents a ten-county region in Central Iowa and economic growth in Indianola/Warren County is important to our entire region. The proposed project will result in new job creation and capital investment, as well as open adjacent land for development through the addition of necessary infrastructure.

The Missouri Valley Line Constructors Apprenticeship and Training Programs (MVJATC) would build a new 50,000 square foot facility to host 3,000 electric lineman apprentices each year. The additional staff needed to support the growth of the Indianola facility, the investment in the new building, and the ripple effect of bringing 3,000 people to the community for week-long training each year, will grow Indianola's economy and support its local business base.

In addition to the economic benefits this project will bring, the project also supports the workforce development efforts that have been a priority for the Des Moines region and Iowa for the past several years. Governor Kim Reynolds has placed a strong emphasis on building Iowa's STEM education system to support the workforce needs of our local industries. Apprenticeships are a key part of this initiative. It is estimated that 40% of the current working electrical lineman journeyman will be retired in the next 10 years. Even if the current number of electrical lineman journeyman would double each year for the next 10 years, there would likely still be a shortage in 10 years. The MVJATC project takes a big step toward meeting the need for electric linemen in Iowa and the Upper Midwest region.

Assistance from the Public Works/Economic Assistance Program is needed to help construct the new paved street and public utilities necessary to provide access to the new site and facility.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Indianola's application.

Sincerely,



Jay Byers
CEO